

SYMPTOMS

There are 3 forms of Leishmaniasis: cutaneous, visceral and mucocutaneous. Most of the people infected do not develop any symptoms. The symptoms can vary according to the form.

- Cutaneous: Skin sores (start as bumps or nodules) and may change size and shape over the time and end up as ulcers.
- Visceral: Affects liver, spleen, and bone marrow. The most common symptoms are fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anaemia (low red blood counts), a low white blood cell count, and low platelet count.
- Mucocutaneous: Sores in the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, or throat.



TRANSMISSION

Distribution and Spread

Leishmaniasis is caused by protozoan parasites, these parasites are transmitted to humans by the bites of an infected female sandfly.

RECOMMENDATION

Prevention

There is no vaccine or drug available to prevent leishmaniasis infections.

To decrease the risk of infection it is recommended to follow these measures:

- Avoid sandfly bites
- Minimize outdoor activity from dusk to dawn, when sand flies are most active
- Use an effective insect repellent and cover as much skin as is practical
- Use screens and insecticides to keep insects out of your accommodation
- Consider using insecticide-treated bed net with fine mesh if there are sand flies in your living quarters.

Treatment

Leishmaniasis infection is a treatable and curable disease. Rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment prevent complications and even fatalities. There are effective anti-leishmanial medicines, especially for visceral leishmaniasis. Cutaneous leishmaniasis usually heals on its own, even without treatment. The people with visceral infection require early and complete treatment, if not it may be fatal. To prevent mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis it is suggested to treat the cutaneous Leishmaniasis.